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INSIDE THE TALK SHOW WARS {page 10}

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PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

Two mothers, two murders, two mysteries

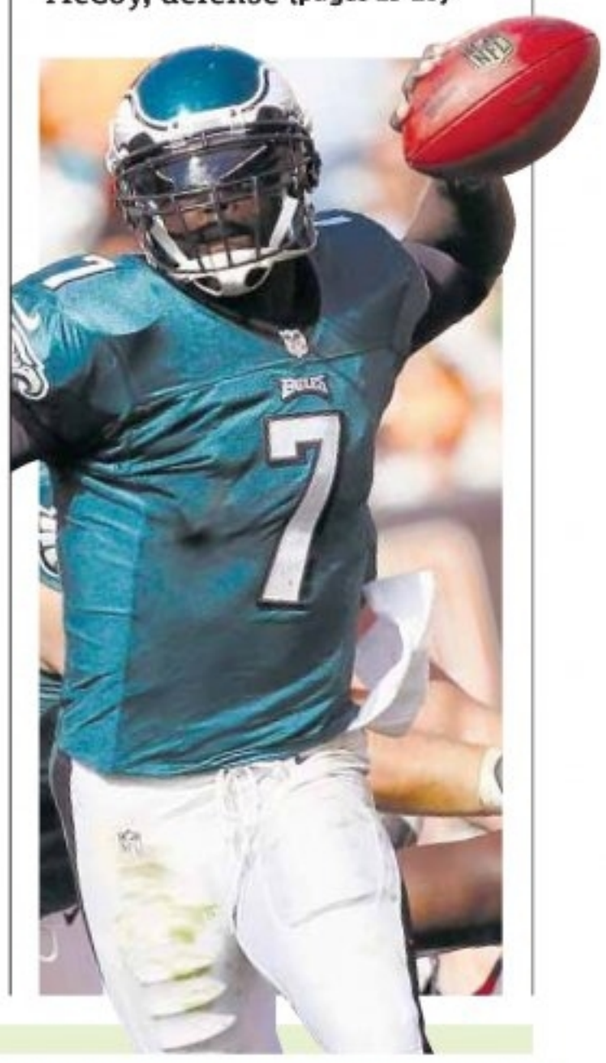
- No answers as disappearances of 22-year-old mothers stir little interest outside of North Philly
- Franchesca Alvarado not seen since March 17
- Melanie Colon's body found May 12 {page 02}

▶ One of Alvarado's six sisters, Mia Casteing, spoke emotionally during a vigil for her missing sister at a North Philadelphia church on Friday. Her sister disappeared nearly six months ago.

NFL

Not so hot in Cleveland, but Eagles survive

- Vick pulls out season opener, 17-16, after sloppy performance
- Birds ride McCoy, defense {pages 19-20}



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Gone, without answers

Agony of two families goes under radar in mothers' disappearances
Suspects remain elusive, they say

PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

▶ Sister Alma Rios cradled Alvarado's daughter Janiah, 4, during the concert Friday night.

The pews at Juan 3:16 Assemblies of God were packed Friday. There were no church services that night — the crowd was there for a different type of vigil. "The theme is 'Keeping Hope Alive,'" said one of the event's organizers, Alma Rios. "My prayer is that wherever my sister is, all the love that is in the church tonight will travel to her and God will bring her home to us."

Rios' sister, 22-year-old Franchesca 'Cheka' Alvarado, left her home in Hunting Park for a trip to Atlantic City with a male friend on March 13, nearly six months ago. He returned. She did not.

"We're here today to inspire each other and inspire everybody else that's hurting," Rios said of the concert and rally in Alvarado's honor. The family has received an outpouring of support, with a "Find Franchesca" Facebook page garnering over 5,200 likes. Rios said they get three to four hundred e-mails from strangers across the country.

"They've known people who've disappeared," said another of Alvarado's sisters, Tina Diori, of the supporters who have helped the family raise a $25,000 reward, largely through the sale of $10 t-shirts. "They have loved ones who have also gone missing. With this case, a lot of them say it's so close to home. They say they can really relate."

For Ralphiee Colon, who sat a few rows behind Alvarado's family Friday night, the concert hit close to home. His sister Melanie 'Zee' Colon, 22, a former acquaintance of Alvarado's, went missing on May 8 after she was picked up by Reynaldo "Chino" Torres at the family's home on the 2400 block of North Reese Street, about a block away from the church. Her body was found in a lot four days later, but Torres never resurfaced.

"It's about to be four months and we still don't know nothing," Ralphiee Colon said Friday afternoon. "It's so painful to just know that my sister is six feet under and her killer is still out there, that's why I want this to be worldwide and I won't stop. Because someone knows something in this world and someone's going to say something."

Like Alvarado's family, Ralphiee has been bolstered by the support he's received through a Facebook page he made for Melanie, receiving hundreds of messages from those who have suffered similar losses. "Everybody goes through something," he said. "That's why when I read stories, I know I'm not the only one going through something like that."

As horrific as both these cases are, they are further compounded by the not knowing. "I look up to Cheka's family so much because they've got faith and ain't nobody stepping on their toes and they're gonna keep their faith up," Ralphiee said. "Because if it was me, I wouldn't be like that. I would be broke down if my sister was still out there."

Rios said that devastation is what her family is coping with now when it comes to Alvarado. "Every night, the last thing I think about before I go to sleep is, 'Where is she?'" she said. "The first thing I think about when I wake up each morning is, 'Is this the day?'" Diori said that, despite the theme of the concert, it's hard to remain hopeful. "I just know that, wherever she is, she's not okay, unless she's deceased and she's with God," Diori said. "But if she's out there and she's being held hostage — these are the things you think about when have a loved one that's missing. Is she okay? Is she suffering?"

Quoted

"We're here today to inspire each other and inspire everybody else that's hurting."
ALMA RIOS

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

No national attention for Cheka or Zee

The families may not get the Natalee Holloway-level of national media attention.

They may never appear on Nancy Grace — Alvarado's relatives said a call to the show was rebuffed — or America's Most Wanted, despite the fact that when producers recently asked Facebook users to suggest cases to air, there were over 3,000 comments in support of Franchesca, Rios said.

But they have each other, a community ravaged — and bonded — by loss.

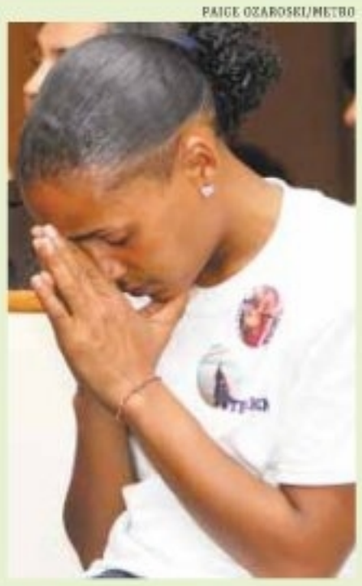
"One thing about our community is that we stick together," Rios said. "No matter how many people point their finger at this community, we stick together. All the people here tonight are going to demonstrate that." METRO/AW

'Overwhelmed' in North Philly

The storm of emotions whipped up by Melanie Colon's unsolved murder is tearing the family apart at the seams, they said.

"We're grieving, we're angry, we don't know how to cope, we're not getting answers," her stepmother Marybell said. "Cheka's family's trying to work with the community, and we're trying on our own, but yet there are no efforts outside of that to give us the answers that we want. Because at the end of the day, we live in North Philly and there's so many things going on in North Philly every single day that police are overwhelmed and there's just no answers. So that's why the community's got to step up so that people like Melanie, she's not going to be forgotten."

PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO



She said that remembrance is an important part of continuing to fight for awareness of the two women's stories. "The sad part of this is that ... the public eye's not there," she said. "But there's two kids that are suffering, that are going to grow up without their mothers, and we're not going to let that be forgotten." METRO/AW

In the news

Fake bouncer cards women

Jersey City police on Saturday arrested Michaelangelo Costello, 27, for allegedly posing as a cop, carding patrons at a local bar and extorting a 22-year-old woman who didn't have an ID, according to a report from The Jersey Journal. He reportedly told officers he was on a mission to stop underage women from drinking because he had seen alcohol's ill effects on a relative. METRO/AW

In the news

Voter ID debate

Pennsylvania's requirement that voters present photo identification before casting a ballot won't deprive citizens of any rights, state lawyers told the state Supreme Court in a filing. Voting rights of as many as 1 million people could be compromised by the photo-ID law, according to the lawsuit. Arguments before the court are scheduled for Sept. 13. BLOOMBERG

Council aides charged in DUIs

Police: Aide crashed in Callowhill Then another council employee appeared to help but got arrested

Two City Council staffers are facing charges — and possibly the loss of their jobs — after police say they drove under the influence after a crash in the Callowhill section of Philadelphia early Saturday morning.

Authorities said Council President Darrell Clarke's receptionist Robin Jones, 50, was driving a city-issued 2008 Chevy Cobalt when, around 2:30 a.m., she struck a street sign, then skidded into the side of a building at 13th and Hamilton streets. Jones told police that she swerved to avoid hitting a bicyclist.

Investigators said that Jones called friend and City Council Sergeant-at-Arms Rodney Williams, 42, who showed up to the accident in a 1997 Ford Explorer, which was also city-issued. Officers on the scene could see that Williams was "visibly intoxicated," police said.

"The employees, one a receptionist and the other a sergeant-at-arms, were not authorized to use the city-owned vehicles at the time of the incidents," Clarke said in a statement. "These acts, if confirmed by the authorities, display a level of conduct and disregard for public safety that cannot be tolerated."

Both Jones and Williams were arrested and charged with driving under the influence. Jones, who was also charged with driving on a suspended or revoked license, was arraigned shortly before 9:45 p.m. Saturday night. Williams was arraigned around 1:40 a.m. Sunday morning. Each were released on their own recognizance, according to court documents.

"I await the results of a full investigation by the Philadelphia Police Department and will take appropriate action," Clarke said.

"I have been informed by the Philadelphia Police Department that two City Council employees face possible DUI charges following incidents involving city-owned vehicles early this morning."
COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL CLARKE SAID IN A STATEMENT

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Five murders over weekend

Five people are dead following at least four separate shootings and one stabbing over a particularly violent weekend.

Police have not released any of the victims' identities or possible motives for their slayings. No arrests have yet been made in any of the incidents.

The deaths bring the number of homicides to 244 this year so far, nearly 18 percent more killings compared to the same time period in 2009.

244 Homicides through yesterday in 2012, almost 10 percent more than through the same day in 2011

The first of the slayings was a 17-year-old shot in the stomach and found lying near Finley Playground Stenton around 11:10 p.m. Friday.

The last slaying was of a 22-year-old man whom police found lying inside a home on the 1500 block of Federal Street in South Philadelphia at about 3 a.m. yesterday with gunshot wounds to his side and upper back. METRO/AW

In the news

US government gets to keep rare coins, judge rules

PHILADELPHIA. A federal judge last week upheld a ruling that 10 gold 1933 Saint-Gauden double eagle coins valued at about $80 million belong to the U.S. government, not to the descendants of a Philadelphia coin dealer who found them nine years ago wrapped in a paper Wanamaker's bag and sealed inside a safety deposit box, according to a report from The Courthouse News Service.

Israel Switt was allegedly given the stolen coins by Philadelphia Mint cashier George McCann in 1933, just before then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered U.S. banks to vacate the gold standard as the Great Depression dawned. The majority of the $20 coins were melted down, making them extremely rare.

After finding his stash, Switt's descendants gave the coins to the Philadelphia Mint for authentication, but the government instead seized them. A jury found last year that the coins were likely stolen and rightfully belonged to the United States. METRO/AW

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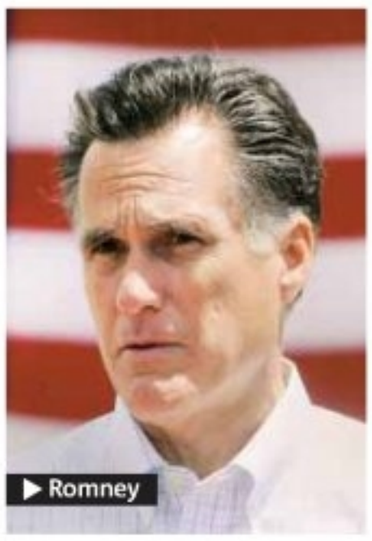
Romney says he would keep parts of health care law

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who has called for scrapping President Barack Obama's 2010 U.S. health care law, said in remarks aired on Sunday that he likes key parts of "Obamacare" despite his party's loathing of it and wants to retain them.

Romney, who faces Obama in the Nov. 6 election, has vowed throughout the campaign to repeal and replace the Obama healthcare law. But asked about the Obama healthcare law on NBC's "Meet the Press" program, Romney said, "Well, I'm not getting rid of all of health care reform."

"Of course, there are a number of things that I like in health care reform that I'm going to put in place," Romney added. "One is to make sure that those with preexisting conditions can get coverage. Two is to assure that the marketplace allows for individuals to have policies that cover their family up to whatever age they might like."


▶ Romney

The Obama health care law, among other provisions, prevents insurance companies from denying medical coverage to people who already are suffering from a medical condition. It also allows parents to keep their young-adult children on their health insurance plans until age 26.

The law is Obama's signature domestic policy achievement.

Elements of the state health care reform plan that Romney put in place as governor of Massachusetts served as a model for the federal law passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by Obama in 2010 despite unified Republican opposition.

"I say we're going to replace Obamacare. And I'm replacing it with my own plan. And even in Massachusetts when I was governor, our plan there deals with preexisting conditions and with young people," Romney told "Meet the Press." **REUTERS**

News in brief

Obama widens lead despite jobs data

President Barack Obama, picking up support following the Democratic National Convention, widened his narrow lead over Republican U.S. presidential challenger Mitt Romney in a new Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Saturday.

The latest daily tracking poll showed Obama, a Democrat, with a 4 percent lead over Romney. Forty-seven percent of 1,457 likely voters surveyed online over the previous four days said they would vote for Obama if the Nov. 6 elections were held today, compared with 43 percent for Romney.

"The bump is actually happening. I know there was some debate whether it would happen. ... But it's here," said Ipsos pollster Julia Clark, referring to the "bounce" in support that many presidential candidates enjoy after nominating conventions.

Obama had leapfrogged Romney in the daily tracking poll on Friday with a lead of 46 percent to 44 percent. **REUTERS**

Gingrich: Clinton DNC speech "eerily anti-Obama"

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich on Sunday tried to turn Bill Clinton's rousing Democratic convention speech into a liability for President Barack Obama, calling it "eerily anti-Obama."

Gingrich argued that Clinton's efforts to remind voters about the economic heyday of his two terms in office could be seen to undermine Obama, who is struggling to reignite the economy and job growth.

"I actually thought parts of the Clinton speech were eerily anti-Obama, if you just listened to the subtext. I mean, here is Clinton saying, 'I reformed welfare because I worked with the Republicans, you didn't, Mr. Obama.' He didn't say it that way, but think about it," Gingrich told CNN's "State of the Union."

Gingrich, who was a sharp critic of Clinton during his presidency, added: "I think what it does is it actually shrinks Obama. I mean, you have a real president and then you have this guy who is a pretender." **REUTERS**

DNC said to end $15 million short

Democrats ended their convention in Charlotte $5 million short of their budget even after being forced to draw down a $10 million line of credit from Duke Energy Corp., according to a Democratic Party fundraiser.

That will leave a $15 million bill that eventually will have to be paid by President Barack Obama's campaign or the Democratic National Committee, according to the fundraiser, who spoke on condition of anonymity. **BLOOMBERG**

Metropolitick

GREGORY KANE

PULITZER-NOMINATED NEWS AND OPINION JOURNALIST

LOVE'S LABORS LOST ON LEFT HATE-SLINGERS

Mia Love is the mayor of Saratoga Springs, Utah. She's also a Mormon, a Republican and the daughter of parents who immigrated to the United States from Haiti. And after her speech at the Republican National Convention — one in which Love made it clear she did not prostrate herself before the altar of Barack Hussein Obama — the Haitian-American Mormon mayor became something else: a target.

ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Saratoga Springs Mayor Mia Love speaks at the 2012 Republican National Convention.

For years, it's been unfashionable to be black, Republican and conservative. Most African-Americans have decided we all must be Democrats and liberals. Deviate from the norm, and you'll be treated with the disdain usually reserved for the Tonton Macoutes. Lately, even that's changed. It's not enough for blacks to be Democrats and liberals. Now, to prove our racial loyalty, we almost have to genuflect when President Obama's name is mentioned. There are those that have apparently charged, tried and convicted Love of insufficient genuflection, but I'm sure she'll be happy to agree with them.

"[Obama's] policies have failed," Love said at the RNC. "We are not better off than we were four years ago, and no rhetoric, bumper sticker or Hollywood campaign ad can change that. Mr. President, I am here to tell you we are not buying what you are selling in 2012." That must have sent some Obamaphiles over the edge. They became unhinged, downright balmy enough to go to Love's Wikipedia page and "update" her biographical data.

Foxnews.com reported the story with the title "Mia Love Wikipedia page vandalized with slurs." (What? You thought CNN, the Huffington Post or MSNBC were going to report the story?) "Rising Republican star Mia Love's Wikipedia page was vandalized overnight with racist and sexist epithets," the first paragraph of the story reads. Further on, we get details of what was said."[O]ne section called her a 'dirty, worthless whore' who sold out to big business."

Once again, we see Republican, conservative women being subjected to the most despicable sexist slurs imaginable. (It makes you wonder, doesn't it, which side of the political spectrum REALLY hates women?) A New Jersey writer called former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice a "skeeza" — a slang term for whore — several years ago. You remember the outrage Democrats and liberals expressed at his comments, don't you? Of course you don't. You don't remember them being outraged after so-called comedian Bill Maher used a certain C-word to refer to former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, either.

Oh, there was more on Love's Wikipedia page. We don't know if the same person that called her a "dirty, worthless whore" also wrote that Love was "a sellout to the right-wing hate machine." The writer also accused Love of being "the House N— she truly is."

You have to be aghast at the sheer chutzpah of someone spewing such hate accusing anybody of "selling out to the right-wing hate machine." But liberals and Democrats sincerely believe that only Republicans, conservatives and members of the Tea Party movement can truly hate.

Such hypocrisy explains why you never hear that n-word used by conservatives, Republicans or members of the Tea Party movement, while those on the left seem to have cornered the market on it.

No Republican or Tea Party movement group has used that word to refer to Obama. But a member of the New Black Panther Party did, earlier this year. We didn't hear outrage from Democrats or liberals about that either.

When — not if — Democrats start accusing the Republican presidential nominee and/or vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan of being a racist, let us recall how members of the donkey party reacted to the scurrilous attack on Love.

– Examiner Columnist Gregory Kane is a Pulitzer-nominated news and opinion journalist who has covered people and politics from Baltimore to the Sudan.

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Opinion

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Justin has produced a chalkanimation video to accompany this column. View it at www.metro.us/weirdscience

TRUE STORY OF NATURE'S CHAOS

What does your future have in common with your morning coffee, hurricanes, gambling, sports and the galaxy? All are intertwined by a mysterious property of nature called chaos.

The key to chaos is the poetically named butterfly effect, which is a slight change in a chaotic system drastically effecting what happens in the long run. Weather is an example of a chaotic system. A shift in wind as subtle as air passing around a butterfly's wings can trigger the development of a hurricane weeks later, on the other side of Earth.

Your B.S. meter may be off the charts. But before you dismiss the idea, consider football, a chaotic American pastime.

Like the weather, football is chaotic. One detail, one step can alter the outcome of the game, the season, the franchise and people's lives for generations.

If Drew Bledsoe stepped out of bounds to avoid a season-ending hit in 2001, second-string quarterback Tom Brady would have remained sidelined. A single step changed careers, contracts, Super Bowl wins, retirement plans etc. This is the essence of chaotic systems, two slightly different starting points result in completely different outcomes.

Order and chaos are even in atoms. The players, ball and field are like electrons, photons and space. The nucleus and atoms are connected by forces like players' movement connected by the rules of the game.

Similar to free will causing unpredictable behavior in humans, exact movement of individual particles in an atom cannot be measured or predicted. The laws of nature don't allow it, resulting in a fundamental link between chaos and order.

Stirring cream into coffee causes a spiral pattern to emerge while the motion of molecules is turbulent. The same pattern in coffee can be seen in a hurricane, even though the movement of air is unpredictable. The spiral pattern even shows up in the galaxy we live in, composed of billions of stars, planets, dark matter and dust.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Weather. Tropical storm

▶ Tropical Storm Leslie churned in the Atlantic yesterday.

NOAA

Leslie swirls east of Bermuda

A tropical storm warning remained in effect across Bermuda, where forecasters warned hazardous surf and rip currents were expected to continue through today. Most flights in and out of Bermuda were canceled yesterday, and bus and ferry services were suspended. REUTERS

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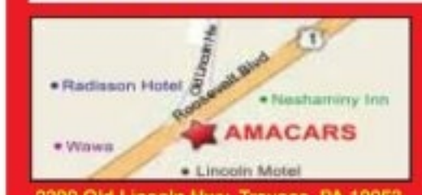

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Iraq explosions kill 80, French consulate hit

At least 80 people were killed yesterday in attacks across Iraq, including a car bomb outside a French consulate.

Sunni Islamists and an al-Qaida affiliate still launch about one major attack a month in an effort to reignite tensions between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims following the U.S. military withdrawal in December.

The most serious of the bombings, blasts and shootings on Sunday happened near the city of Amara, 185 miles south of Baghdad. Two car bombs exploded outside a Shi'ite shrine and a market place, killing at least 16 people, officials said.

With its main hospital overflowing with patients injured from the attacks, mosques in Amara used prayer loudspeakers to call for blood donations.

Overnight in Dujail, 30 miles north of Baghdad, gunmen and a suicide bomber driving a car attacked a military base, killing 11 soldiers and injuring seven, police said.

Later yesterday, a car bomb killed eight people lining up for jobs as police guards for the Iraqi North Oil Company in the flashpoint city of Kirkuk, 155 miles north of Baghdad, police said. REUTERS

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Iraqi policemen inspect the wreckage of a car used in a bomb explosion yesterday in a market in the southern city of Basra.

French target

- The car bomb that exploded outside the French consular building in the usually stable city of Nassiriya, 186 miles south of Baghdad, killed a police guard and wounded four other guards, authorities said. The consul, an Iraqi citizen, was not at the office at the time of the attack.

News in brief

Fugitive Iraqi VP gets death sentence

BAGHDAD. Iraq's fugitive Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi was sentenced to death for murder charges yesterday in a ruling likely to further stoke sectarian tensions after a bloody day of bombings that killed at least 80 across the country.

Hashemi, a senior Sunni Muslim politician, fled Iraq after the authorities issued a warrant for his arrest in December, a move that threatened to collapse a fragile power-sharing deal among Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish blocs at a time when U.S. troops were pulling out. REUTERS

Germany urges Iran to make 'substantial' nuclear offers

JERUSALEM. Germany's foreign minister urged Iran to make "substantial offers" to restart nuclear talks with world powers and told Israel allowing the Islamic Republic to get the bomb was "not an option."

Guido Westerwelle's comments followed weeks of rhetoric in Israel over a possible go-it-alone strike against Iran's nuclear facilities and calls by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for world powers to set a "red line" for Tehran. REUTERS

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@joelmchale
Sad news: the phrase "hot mess" is six months past it's expiration date. Also "I just threw up in my mouth a little" is over(2 years).

@lindsaylohan
just sending love, prayers and strength to #PrinceHarry

@katyperry
Today I am promised happiness. Let's do this!

@AlbertBrooks
"Shocking. Nude. Sex. Devastating" Four words you must use to have a successful website.

@JimGaffigan
New saying: "A cheeseburger a day keeps the feelings away."

@DannyDeVito
Shake it up baby!

Joel McHale

Bummer breakup of 2012: Poehler, Arnett

When we found out that **Amy Poehler** and **Will Arnett** were divorcing last week, we assumed there must be the scandal of all scandals hiding behind their split. Nevermind that their rep insisted it was "very amicable" — why would two people as funny, successful and charming as them break up? As it turns out, they're not that much different than those of us who fall asleep watching reruns of their shows, snuggling piles of almost-warm takeout.

"Will and Amy started to feel more like best friends than a married couple — and sadly they lost their spark," a source tells RadarOnline. "The two still love each other very dearly, but the romance died and neither one of them was happy, so something had to be done."

Talk about shot through the heart. Go ahead, Source, finish us off: "Everyone used to think that because Amy and Will are both comedians, their relationship was all fun. However, the laughter stopped a long time ago, and now they just want to move on with their lives."

Now, we're not necessarily saying that love is dead. Just that he's emptied the minibar, went on an ugly Facebook bender and, well, things aren't looking good.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Couldn't you guys just fake it like the rest of us?

Brad Pitt is still walking down the aisle

Despite the sad prognosis of love, **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie** still think they can make it work. The Marriage of the Century is a go, confirms Pitt, even if there isn't a date set. "No plans yet, other than we are going to do it," he tells E! News. "I plan very little as I get older."

As for **George Clooney**, his role at the nuptials is also still undecided. "Well, you know, he doesn't believe in institutions," Pitt says. "So he can get people to their seats or something."

Depp talks Tater Tots

Johnny Depp was at the Toronto Film Festival over the weekend supporting "West of Memphis," a documentary about three men who spent more than 18 years in prison for "satanic" murders that they — along with pretty much everyone outside of their sleepy Southern town — claim they did not commit. After his release from prison, one of the men, **Damien Echols**, moved in with Depp.

"To finally see Damien arrive at my house, on my doorstep, was moving and it was a celebration. It was beautiful," said Depp at a press conference for the film. "We had Tater Tots and tacos. And things took their natural course and we ended up at the tattoo parlor."

Now, 18 years is a steep price to pay for Johnny Tots. But don't think we didn't run the numbers.

Depp and Echols have matching tattoos and similar taste in shades.

Talking points

Jonah Hill and Ali Hoffman split

Jonah Hill and girlfriend **Ali Hoffman** have reportedly split up after nine months of dating, according to Us Weekly. The Oscar-nominated actor had been close to Hoffman and her family — including her dad, **Dustin Hoffman** — for years before becoming romantically involved. Dustin Hoffman helped him get a role in "I Heart Huckabees," his film debut.

Hill

Won't someone think of the gossip columnists?

While the future of **Robert Pattinson** and **Kristen Stewart**'s relationship is still uncertain after her affair with director **Rupert Sanders**, at least one friend of the pair says not to worry. "They are totally going to get back together," the source tells Hollyscoop. "It is just a matter of time. Kristen has this effect on Rob. Robert is not a player. It is really a mess of a relationship. They are both in love with each other still." That might be a problem, though, for friends of Pattinson. "They tell him, 'If she cheated once she will cheat again,'" the source says.

Katy Perry and John Mayer are back on

It appears reports of the demise of **Katy Perry** and **John Mayer**'s relationship were premature, as the pair were spotted at the MTV Video Music Awards after-party looking very much still together, according to Hollyscoop. "[John and Katy] were holding hands walking around the VIP area looking like a legit couple. They weren't even hiding it," the source says. The couple — who split last month after briefly dating — soon left the party, though, in favor of a more intimate dinner at a restaurant.

Right back at you, Sir Paul

1 **Paul McCartney** received the "Legion d'Honneur" from France's president **Francois Hollande** on Friday. The world received a thumbs-up. Excellent trade, gentlemen.

2 **Hugh Grant** and his signature half-smile charmed the pants off Toronto on Saturday.

3 Why hello, Hermione. "Harry Potter" cutie **Emma Watson** freshened up the red carpet for her latest, "The Perks of Being a Wallflower."

4 **Will Smith** and his impossibly photogenic family — from left, **Willow, Jaden** and **Jada** — were on the red carpet at the Toronto Film Festival yesterday.

5 **Lady Gaga** obviously didn't mind attracting a little attention while walking around London yesterday.

1. PHILIPPE WOJAZER/AFP
2. JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES
3. SONIA RECCHIA/GETTY IMAGES
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The daytime battleground

With Oprah's crown still up for grabs, three new celebrities enter the talk-show fray today Here's what you need to know about the contenders

Harvey also has something to say

Comedian **Steve Harvey** got into the daytime talk game early, premiering his self-titled chat show last week. Prompted to host a show after the success of his relationship advice book "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," the "King of Comedy" featured "the worst dater in America," overprotective parents and an introduction to poi exercise during his first week of shows.
"Steve Harvey," ABC

The show

'Katie'

3 p.m. ABC
For 15 years, **Katie Couric** helped America wake up as co-anchor of the "Today" show. She became the first solo female anchor of a national nightly news broadcast when she helmed "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric" from 2006 to 2011.

Personality

Couric is the sweet aunt who will take you for brunch and a manicure, listen to your problems, then scold you because you know better. She hopes "Katie" delivers information — from daily news to dating tips — that is "smart with heart."

What to expect

"Katie," taped live from NYC and mixing news and entertainment, sounds a little like a one-hour version of "Today."

"I'm going to be able to flex all my muscles [on 'Katie']," Couric says, referring to her 33 years on both ends of the TV news spectrum. "I've done ... some fun stories, some celebrity-driven stories. And then I've done very serious stories. I pride myself on being able to use the right tone and the right approach and to be able to calibrate that approach depending on who I'm interviewing or the topic that I'm dealing with on any given day."

"I pride myself on being able to use the right tone and the right approach and to be able to calibrate that approach depending on who I'm interviewing or the topic that I'm dealing with on any given day." COURIC

Katie Couric

Secret weapon

Sheryl Crow wrote and performed the "Katie" theme song, reminding us of the A-list contacts list that has got to be on Couric's iPhone, which she'll be able to tap for interviews. Crow will appear on the first episode, as will Jessica Simpson.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sheryl Crow

'The Ricki Lake Show'

5 p.m., The CW
Ricki Lake became a star in John Waters' classic film "Hairspray." She hosted her titular chat show from 1993 to 2004, then produced a documentary about childbirth, "The Business of Being Born." She came in third place on "Dancing with the Stars" in '11.

"Hairspray"

Lake is your sympathetic girlfriend who has been there, done that and always has her own funny anecdote to share.

"I have been rich. I have been poor. I have been fat. I have been thin," Lake admits. "I've had this life experience, and I'm an open book. I'm willing to share my hardships and my triumphs."

Her mission for her return to talk is "that this can be a smart show [where] people can learn from each other, have a great time and walk away with some takeaway," she adds.

"Ricki Lake" became a phenomenon when Lake, then in her 20s, addressed the (often scandalous) concerns of the younger generation and encouraged audience participation. Now 43, Lake intends to continue engaging her fans, but with a more grownup approach and topics that affect, primarily, women between the ages of 25 and 54.

"Today, times are really tough. We're all trying to figure it out and put food on our plates and be in the job force and raise families and, you know, figure out the aging process and how to reverse it," Lake says. "I mean, we all are trying to do the best we can. So I think doing a show now that's a little less fluff, a little more substance — that's something I would be looking for as a viewer."

"I think doing a show now that's a little less fluff, a little more substance — that's something I would be looking for as a viewer." LAKE

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ricki Lake

Don't underestimate the nostalgia factor for Ricki Lake, Talk Show Host. The studio audience started a "Go Ricki" chant — a hallmark of the host's first show — during taping of the new show's second episode.

"It feels like a natural kind of thing," Lake says of the cheer. "I'm not opposed to it. I mean, it's very endearing and makes me feel very welcome."

'The Jeff Probst Show'

Noon, NBC
Jeff Probst is the Emmy Award-winning host of "Survivor"; he has helmed the reality show since 2000. Formerly, he hosted "Rock & Roll Jeopardy!" and was a reporter for "Access Hollywood."

Your over-sharing big brother who is also your biggest cheerleader.

"I think my weakness ... will be a strength," Probst says of his tendency to share "sometimes too much." "In daytime, when you are asking people to share their life on the level that I'm going to go to, you have to be willing to share yours," he adds. Probst's wife, Lisa Ann Russell, will often contribute to the day's conversation.

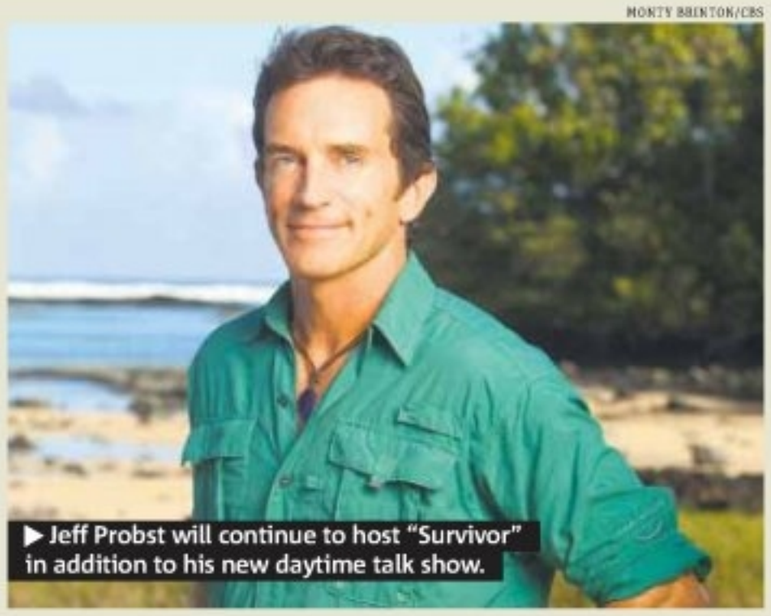
"If you're looking for Jerry or Maury, this is not your show," Probst says. "I'm not interested in people fighting onstage."

You can forget about seeing celebrities promoting their latest movie, too, unless they are able to add to Probst's message of positivity and embracing new experiences.

"The overall idea of the show is saying yes to the adventures in your life — I mean being married, being a parent, dating, friendships," he says. "At the end, this really is what defines our life, those adventures. And that's the idea behind the show, and we will talk about that all the time."

"The overall idea of the show is saying yes to the adventures in your life — I mean being married, being a parent, dating, friendships." PROBST

MONTY BRINTON/CBS



▶ Jeff Probst will continue to host "Survivor" in addition to his new daytime talk show.

Only "The Jeff Probst Show" boasts a party room complete with massage chairs, makeover stations and snacks for its audience. Probst says the set was designed to be an extension of his living room, a place "where you feel comfortable enough to kick off your shoes."

The party room serves two purposes, he explains: "One, we want the audience to feel welcome, and we also want them to spread the word — if you are looking for something fun to do in L.A., check out 'The Jeff Probst Show.'"

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She's feeling like a million bucks

Amanda Palmer on her relationship with art and her fans ◗ She doesn't really think 'Theater Is Evil'

A compliment makes a gal feel like a million bucks, and there's no greater compliment than, well, a million bucks, which is what Amanda Palmer received via her fan-fueled Kickstarter fundraiser for her new album, "Theater is Evil."

"I got 1.2 million in preorders," corrects Palmer.

She's speaking from New York, where she's rehearsing with her band, the Grand Theft Orchestra. "It doesn't mean I have a million dollars. It does mean that business is good."

There's no denying the validation when fans shell out before hearing a single note of music, though.

"It's a big symbolic gesture on the part of my fans that tells me they have an enormous amount of faith in me. But this is the relationship I have developed ... which isn't about music. It's about art and love and creating a community. The music is a bit of a red herring."

Palmer catches herself and laughs at her last statement.

"Well, if I weren't a performer, none of this would be happening," she adds. "I'm not interested in having fans and admirers. I don't want to be a pop star. I'm among those artists who use art and music to connect."

SHERRIK LAINEZ

▶ Amanda Palmer and the Grand Theft Orchestra play tonight at 7 at TLA (334 South St.). For more info visit www.tlaphilly.com.

Death, rebirth and 'Evil'

For Amanda Palmer, calling an album "Theater Is Evil" is like Snoop calling a project "I Don't Like Marijuana."

"I do love theater, the title is highly ironic," says Palmer. "But I struggle with the current manifestation of the theater world. It's dying a strange death and hopefully experiencing a rebirth the same way music is. It's not the artists creating it, but the way culture feels about it. So much is academic."

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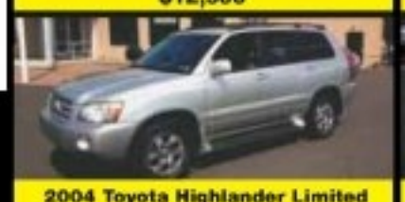

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TV watch list

'The Voice'

REALITY. Coaches Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, Christina Aguilera and Cee Lo Green better grease up those spinning chairs and exercise those button-hitting fingers, because a new round of singers is ready to wow them during blind auditions tonight. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., NBC**

'The Crimson Petal and the White'

DRAMA. In Victorian London, strong-willed prostitute Sugar (Romola Garai) is drawn into the life of wealthy businessman William Rackham (Chris O'Dowd). **Miniseries premiere, 8 p.m., Encore**

'MasterChef'

REALITY. It all comes down to a three-course meal prepared by the final two cooks. **Season finale, 9 p.m., Fox**

AMBER RAY

It's 'Electric'

Found Theater Company follows up its Fringe success with another ambitious production

▶ "Electric Jungle" runs through Sept. 13 at the Painted Bride. For tickets and showtimes visit www.livearts-fringe.org.

With last year's "Event End," a free-wheeling performance meditation on the end of civilization, Found Theater Company emerged as one of Philly Fringe's most inspiring troupes.

This year the company is moving up in the world: It's no longer performing in a dilapidated North Philly warehouse, but in the plush, respectable confines of the Painted Bride Arts Center. However, its latest won't utilize the Bride's actual theater space; that would be far too obvious for these young experimentalists.

Instead, "Electric Jungle" promises to transform the backstage and rehearsal spaces of the venue into exactly what the title suggests, using papier-mache and a whole lot of voltage.

"We've created this place where nature and technology meet, where we have this tension between the natural world and the digital world," says director Phoebe Schaub.

Thematically, "Jungle" presents the same basic dramatic question as "End": Where exactly are we, as a species, headed? But Schaub promises a little more levity this time around.

"It's definitely not a comedy by any means, but I was finding that so much of the work in this was playful and funny, which was surprising, because last year things were so heavy. But, I gotta admit, I don't think we're ever going to make a comedy. That's just not us."

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Box office

Thriller 'The Possession' keeps grip on box office

LIONSGATE PUBLICITY

▶ Hasidic rapper Matisyahu stars alongside Natasha Calis in "The Possession."

Horror movie "The Possession" kept its hold on the box office title over the weekend with $9.5 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

In a slow weekend, the story about a young girl possessed by a demon came in ahead of Prohibition-era crime drama "Lawless," which grabbed $6 million during its second weekend in theaters.

In third place, new romantic thriller "The Words" earned $5 million over the weekend.

Lions Gate Entertainment released "The Possession." "The Words" was distributed by CBS Films. The Weinstein Co. released "Lawless." **REUTERS**

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COMSTOCK

▶ "Sorry, I can't help out tonight. I've got a date with myself."

There's a fine line between helping others and being a people-pleaser, and mistaking one for the other can be detrimental. When we put others' needs before our own, we deplete our energy — which can lead to depression, physical illness and feeling overwhelmed. People-pleasing also can become so ingrained that it creates a victim mentality in us: People who give too much are susceptible to being taken advantage of, and then resentment sets in. If you've felt that resentment, you might think it's directed at others. Yet, underneath it is resentment toward yourself, for giving away your power. If you're a people-pleaser, chances are that that behavior stems from your own insecurities. We can seek a sense of self-worth in our ability to take care of others.

Zen in the city

GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN
WWW.GABBYB.TV

Becoming aware of this behavior is the first step to healing. If you think you're someone who overly people-pleases, ask yourself:

▶ What am I trying to get by overly giving?

▶ What would happen if I stopped putting others first?

Hidden beneath your desire to serve others is a deep desire to feel good enough. Getting truthful with yourself about your need to people-please will help you begin to change the behavior.

Next, become conscious of putting yourself first. Dr. Christiane Northrup, a contemporary wellness pioneer, says, "If you don't fill your own cup up first, you'll have nothing to give." Self-indulgence is a radical act of self-care. At least once this week, do something kind for yourself. This may feel uncomfortable initially, but it's crucial to create a new pattern of taking care of yourself first.

Lastly, start to create boundaries. If you're a people-pleaser, it's likely that folks have come to expect a lot from you. Start sharing with your friends and family members your desire to take care of yourself first. Letting others in on your shifts will help them help you.

There's nothing wrong with helping others — but your own physical, mental and emotional health must come first.

— Gabrielle Bernstein is the author of "Spirit Junkie."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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ROBERT HORKAK

▶ Brittney Lewis (pictured with son Gibran) built a thriving cafe in Kensington by thinking beyond coffee.

Startup profile: The indie cafe

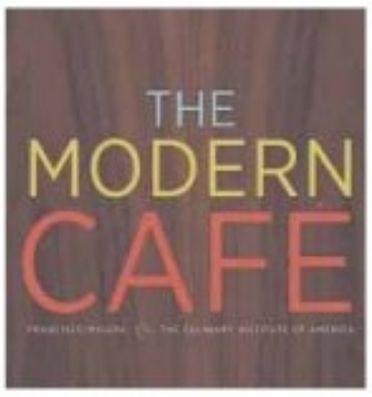
- Think there are already too many cafes in Philly?
- Turns out quality, not quantity, is what matters

At first glance, it may appear that the cafe/coffee-shop business is approaching a point of maximum saturation in Northeastern cities. Not so, says Francisco J. Migoya, author of "The Modern Cafe," one of the seminal books on the business.

"There are an enormous amount of cafes and coffee shops that aren't as good as they could be. Many of these places will outsource a lot of their products. Sometimes, all they think about is coffee, and their pastries are made in a factory somewhere," says Migoya, who also teaches at the Culinary Institute of America. "In New York City there are maybe between seven and 10 very good cafes," Migoya adds. "So for somebody with a little bit of capital, who makes sure they're offering fresh, quality products, it's a really great business to be in."

Longtime barista Brittney Lewis noticed a dearth of coffee quality in her Philadelphia neighborhood and, more importantly, a lack of positive community spaces.

In 2010 Leotah's Place Coffeehouse opened its doors in the Kensington section of the city. But Lewis soon quickly realized she had to upgrade her food offerings if Leotah's was going to survive.



Quoted

"In New York City there are maybe between seven and 10 very good cafes, so for somebody with a little bit of capital, who makes sure they're offering fresh, quality products, it's a really great business to be in."

FRANCISCO J. MIGOYA

"When I started, all I really had in my mind was coffee: direct-trade coffee. It's organic. I know the farmer. I know the roaster. And that's great, but that's all I had," says Lewis. "Once I got in the space, my customers demanded more food and higher-quality food."

Coffee still is the bread and butter at Leotah's. Lewis estimates that about 75 percent of her profit is strictly on drip coffee and lattes. But the food guarantees a steady flow of customers.

"It's a great business because the bar has been set fairly low," says Migoya. "So if you care about making a superb cup of coffee — if you care about simple, great, fresh bread — it's not that tough a climb to offer the customer something a little more than what they were expecting."

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Your job

During your job search, it's tough to know when to pester and when to hold back. Once you've applied — or after you've interviewed — how long should you wait before you start hounding a company? Of course, there's no steadfast rule on this, but some professionals do have strong opinions about timing.

Give employers some space

"Once you forward your resume to a firm," says Revi Goldwasser, managing partner with Wall Street Personnel, "I suggest waiting approximately two to three weeks to check in. That is sufficient. When you follow up, make sure to reference the job opening for which you applied, and resend your résumé again. There's nothing more annoying than to have to go and look for your résumé." And put yourself in the employers' shoes. You wouldn't want to be constantly contacted while trying to make a decision.

Find alternative ways to get the scoop

Your network is a fruitful resource for finding an opening, but it's also there to help give you insight. "Ask your inside

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search: When to follow up

"Regardless if you gain traction with this role, continue applying to jobs online, pursuing opportunities through networking and engaging with recruiters each week to maintain an active job pipeline." AMANDA AUGUSTINE

contact if the job has been filled. They may know something about the process and they may not, but it is worth asking to see if they can shed light on the situation," says Lynne Sarikas, director of Northeastern University's MBA Career Center.

Don't pause your search

Until you've snagged the career you want, keep sending those résumés. A prospective position is just that — prospective. "Regardless if you gain traction with this role, continue applying to jobs online, pursuing opportunities through networking and engaging with recruiters each week to maintain an active job pipeline," explains Amanda Augustine, job search expert for TheLadders. "This will help stop you from dwelling on one job, as well as improve your chances of landing the right job."

JULIA WEST
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Letters

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The word toddlers and the GOP have in common

RE: "GOP'S GOT PEOPLE FEELING LUCKY AGAIN" (METRO, SEPT. 5) John McLaughlin seems to have missed the fact that for the past four years the GOP has been the party of NO. Romney is so dedicated to saying NO.

He voted against a health care program that is virtually the same one he implemented as governor of Massachusetts.

The GOP no longer compromises as both parties have done down through the ages.

To them, compromise is weakness. One man campaigned on the promise to get rid of Obama — not on what he would do for his state, not on what he hoped to gain for his constituents, just to get rid of Obama. I'm glad John seems to feel lucky again.

I just hope he is among the 1 percent because they are the only ones who will really benefit from a Romney presidency.

RACHEL GARBER, PHILADELPHIA

Oval Office seat too hot for both candidates

I can't for the life of me think of a good reason why Mr. Obama would want or should be given another four years to occupy the White House.

But then there's Mr. Romney, who is more suited to a retirement community in Florida than the White House.

BOB KEHL, VIA E-MAIL

More after this strategically placed commercial break

Elizabeth Warren was just getting into how "corporations are not people" the other night at the Democratic National Convention, when ABC quickly cut to a commercial. Just sayin'. I'm starting to think that this phrase is illegal.

WALTER PURCELL, VIA E-MAIL

European model gets better mileage

RE: "MILEAGE MANDATE PUTS ALL LIVES IN THE (TOO) FAST LANE" (METRO, SEPT. 5) The safety hazard decried by Joseph Dupont created by driving vehicles in different tiers of weight and quality of construction on the same (largely public roads) is what income inequality in America has always created.

It was always safer to be the one in Cadillac than the one in Studebaker Lark.

This went on steroids when Reagan exempted "light" trucks from fuel standards to become huge gas guzzling sport utility vehicles prone to rollovers from their high center of mass.

Eighteen-wheeler trucks are now a global competitive loser as container rail becomes basic for freight transport but they are still capable of running over even a Hummer.

Europe has had vehicles that get 50 miles per gallon for years while separate bike and foot paths, decrease auto trips, promote health, humanize the land and save lives lost to auto accidents.

JAMES E. VAN LOOY, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You'll sparkle if you're involved in some kind of creative endeavor. This will be especially true if you have an imaginative partner.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Rather than leave important matters up to the capriciousness of fate, take charge of events yourself. You are the final arbiter of your own affairs.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Be a good listener, especially if you're with a group of friends who are discussing some new topics. There's a chance that what you learn can be used to your advantage.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Conditions in general should be quite favorable for you over the next couple of days, especially where your material interests are concerned. Do something meaningful.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Knowledge gained from personal experience is one of our greatest assets. If you're stymied with something you're doing or with someone you know, look into the past for answers.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Your commercial affairs are best conducted in a secretive atmosphere, with only the people involved present. Outsiders or kibitzers will only cause confusion and complications.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** If there is something pleasant you'd like to do, contact your closest friends first to see if any of them are interested in joining you. Hard feelings would result if you don't.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Cozy up to a friend or family member who can help you advance a career objective. The ladder to success will be much steadier with their cooperation.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Because you're an exceptional organizer, take it upon yourself to help an associate who is fumbling with a situation that you're familiar with.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You're the catalyst who can unite the family to take on a common mission. The changes your clan will be able to effect will bring greater harmony to the entire household.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It's an excellent day to discuss a critical matter with your mate. Reaching a collective conclusion will be far better than any answer arrived at individually.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You should now be able to feel the effects of some influences that could be having a stabilizing effect on your family's finances. The changes will be obvious and worthy of further development. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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6 Count tree rings
10 Balcony section
14 Leafy vines
15 West Coast st.
16 Runs a fever
17 More than scary
19 Lesage hero Gil —
20 Mexican Mrs.
21 Cancels out
22 Name in tractors
23 Transfer money
24 Kind of handshake
25 Roils
28 Campus area
30 Cliffside abode
31 Reflect deeply (2 wds.)
35 Boys
36 Nickels and dimes
37 Appraise
39 Leave on a cruise (3 wds.)
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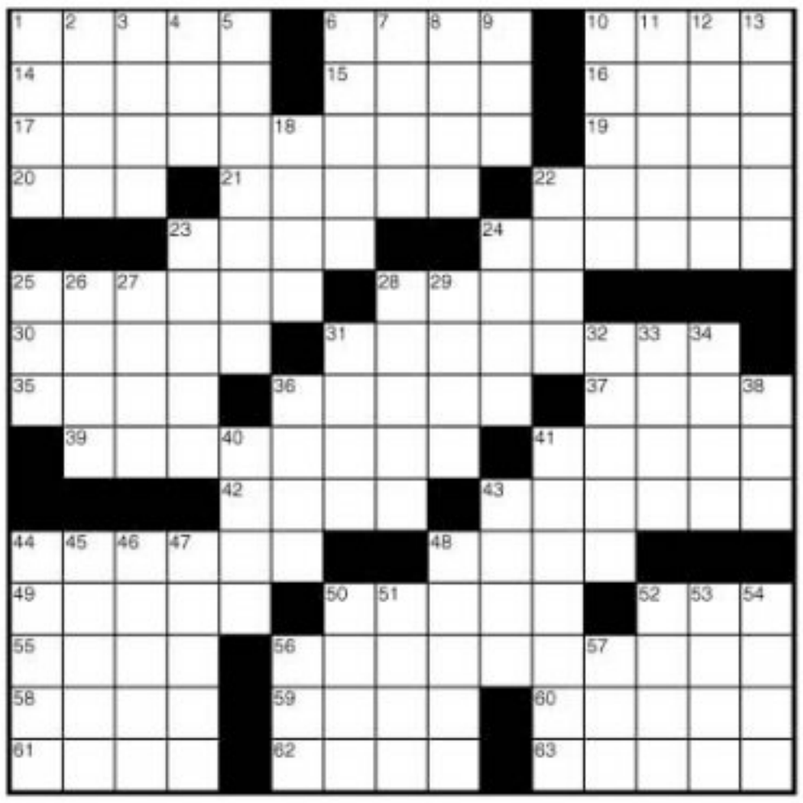
62 Some queens
63 Arboreal Aussie



Down
1 Limo riders
2 Even once
3 Hayworth or Rudner
4 Sun. homily
5 Just plain silly
6 Moriarty's creator
7 Seed covering
8 Decades
9 Turtle-to-be
10 Sticker
11 Fixed a squeak
12 Look daggers at
13 Ruhr Valley city
18 Minks, et al.
22 Extinct bird
23 Ankle opposite
24 Hoedown partners
25 BTU kin
26 Stack
27 Pakistan's language
28 Hushed
29 Radius neighbor
31 Rock's "cushion"
32 Indy 500 sound
33 Bridge position
34 66 and I-80
36 — de grace
38 Ben & Jerry rival
40 Nine-to-fiver's cry
41 Port in Virginia
43 Bullring bull
44 Plaza de Mina city
45 Still in the game
46 Copier ink
47 Untrue (2 wds.)
48 Billowing garments
50 Department store event
51 Subarctic tribe
52 MHz part
53 Spoken
54 Cuba, to Castro
56 Hack's vehicle
57 Zodiac sign

		7	4	8			6	
					6			
	6	4	7		5		1	8
			9			8		
5	7			6			2	4
		6			3			
1	8		6		2	4	5	
			8					
	3			9	4	1		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6					8			3
4		5			6			2
3		7	1				4	
	1	3				5		
			3		1			
		9				3	7	
	6				4	2		5
9			6			4		8
1			2					7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to the weekend crossword

D	A	B	B	E	D	■	E	P	A	■	G	O	A	T
I	D	E	A	T	E	■	D	I	G	■	A	R	L	O
T	E	E	T	H	E	■	G	O	O	■	L	I	E	N
■	■	■	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	G	L	O	R	Y
C	A	S	A	S	■	E	N	S	■	R	A	N	T	S
E	D	E	N	■	G	I	G	■	Z	E	N	■	■	■
L	I	L	■	W	A	G	■	L	E	A	T	H	E	R
E	E	L	■	A	S	H	■	A	B	S	■	U	N	A
B	U	S	T	L	E	S	■	C	R	Y	■	G	A	I
■	■	■	O	K	S	■	P	T	A	■	P	E	C	S
S	C	A	R	E	■	S	R	I	■	F	O	R	T	E
C	H	E	R	R	Y	P	I	C	K	E	R	■	■	■
R	U	S	E	■	I	A	N	■	E	L	O	P	E	D
E	T	O	N	■	P	I	C	■	P	O	U	R	E	D
W	E	P	T	■	E	N	E	■	I	N	S	E	R	T

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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EAGLES 17 | BROWNS 16 **Next: vs. Baltimore**

▶ Tight end Clay Harbor hauls in the winning touchdown pass yesterday in Cleveland.

GETTY IMAGES

A win is a win for Birds on road

Eagles narrowly escape Ohio with Week 1 win ◗ McCoy shines, Vick struggles ◗ What went right, wrong

What went right and what went wrong in the Eagles' 17-16 road victory over the Browns:

WHAT WENT RIGHT ...

Hi, my name is
LeSean McCoy wasted no time proving the money wouldn't change him. Yes, he did fumble on his very first carry, but then he turned on the afterburners. With Mike Vick struggling, Andy Reid put the game into Shady's hands late in the fourth quarter. He should have done it sooner. McCoy delivered with huge runs, racking up 55 yards in the fourth, and finished the game with 20 carries for 110 yards. McCoy would have had a lot more if not for holding penalties.

Don't blame the defense
Maybe Juan Castillo does know what he's doing after all. The front four was aggressive, the linebackers stopped the run — even on third down (2-for-13) — and a star was born in Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie. For all the hype his partner, Nnamdi Asomugha gets, DRC was the one who made the biggest impact. The corner grabbed two game-changing interceptions, and watched a third one bounce right off his fingertips in the end zone.

Special sauce
Bobby April can rest easy. His special teams unit had a master plan for Josh Cribbs, arguably the Browns' best playmaker, and smothered him on every kickoff and punt return. Akeem Jordan and Kurt Coleman — two defensive starters — were the heart and soul. Brandon Boykin also enjoyed a nice debut on kickoff returns, taking his first opportunity back 29 yards. Of course, Alex Henery did miss a makeable field goal that would have pulled the Birds within three points.

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

What went wrong:

1 2011 all over again — The offense was marked by sloppiness and a lack of discipline. The Birds racked up 12 penalties for 110 yards, including two holds that negated huge gainers from LeSean McCoy. The Birds also turned it over five times.

2 Officially unofficial — Hate to do it, because we know they're doing their best, but the replacement refs' best just wasn't good enough. Penalty flags flew out late, calls went unexplained and they often referred to the Eagles as the "green team" and Cleveland as the "white team."

3 QB controversy — Credit him on the game-winning drive, but Mike Vick was downright inept as he struggled to make easy reads, refused to set his feet and constantly threw into double coverage. He finished 29-of-56 for 317 yards.

In the news

RGIII impresses
In yesterday's biggest upset, the Redskins beat the Saints in New Orleans at the Superdome. Washington scored 10 points in every quarter to earn the victory as Robert Griffin III tossed two touchdown passes in his NFL debut.

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Jets put on aerial display in blowout

The long-anticipated debut of the Wildcat looked more like the Mildcat.

Talked about ad nauseam since a March trade sent Tim Tebow to the Jets, the Wildcat offense was supposed to be an unpredictable new wrinkle in the Jets' arsenal. Instead, the Wildcat was tame at best in the Jets' 48-28 season-opening win over the Bills.

The real star of the afternoon was starting quarterback Mark Sanchez. After a rough start to the game, Sanchez settled down to go 19-of-27 for 266 yards and three touchdowns.

"He definitely turned it on today," said wide receiver Jeremy Kerley. "He's a guy we trust and know what he's capable of each week." METRO

Vick fights to finish line

JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Vick was picked off four times by Cleveland, many of which were simply bad decisions.

Ugly day ends with impressive game-winning drive
Vick: 'I knew it was do or die' McCoy carries load

Mike Vick doesn't have quite the same swagger he did in 2010. He slumps his shoulders a little more. He smiles a little less in the huddle. Maybe that's the toll of playing three seasons as Philadelphia's starting quarterback.

Still, when the Eagles needed a big drive, his teammates looked at No. 7. It wasn't pretty, but Vick delivered in the clutch. Going mostly no huddle, Vick connected with tight end Clay Harbor on a four-yard touchdown to complete an otherwise unimpressive 17-16 comeback win in Cleveland.

"I knew it was do or die and my teammates had that sudden look in their eye, as if they was wondering what was wrong with my attitude, why was I hanging my head," Vick said. "They never seen me like that before, but I just felt like I let them down and it will never happen again."

15%
Browns' third-down efficiency against a revamped Eagles defense. Cleveland was 2-for-13 on the crucial down.

Not exactly the words of a confident field general. But this wasn't a confident performance. Vick threw up four interceptions and fumbled twice. He was 29-of-56 for 317 yards, but that one final heave is what the Eagles will focus on.

When reporters tried to sneak extra questions in after his postgame press conference, an exhausted Vick summed it up best, "I'm just trying to get out of Cleveland."

Vick can thank LeSean McCoy for getting him out of Ohio with a win. Knowing his quarterback was struggling, coach Andy Reid let McCoy run the pace car for much of the fourth quarter, when he rumbled for 55 of his 110 rushing yards.

"Too many times we put too much pressure on him, too many expectations," McCoy said. "He's such a good player and we rely on him too much. He's still human. He might be Mike Vick the superstar, but he's still human. As a team, we have to do better to support him. I think late in the [game-winning] drive we did that."

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Serena wins fourth Open

After one of the most spectacular matches in U.S. Open women's history, Serena Williams fell on her back on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court and covered her face.

Victoria Azarenka had just sailed a backhand long on match point, completing Williams's dramatic comeback from 5-3 down in the third set to forge a 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 victory.

"Oh my God, I honestly can't believe I won," Williams said. "I really was preparing my runner-up speech because I thought, 'Man, she's playing so great.' I'm really shocked." METRO

▶ Williams

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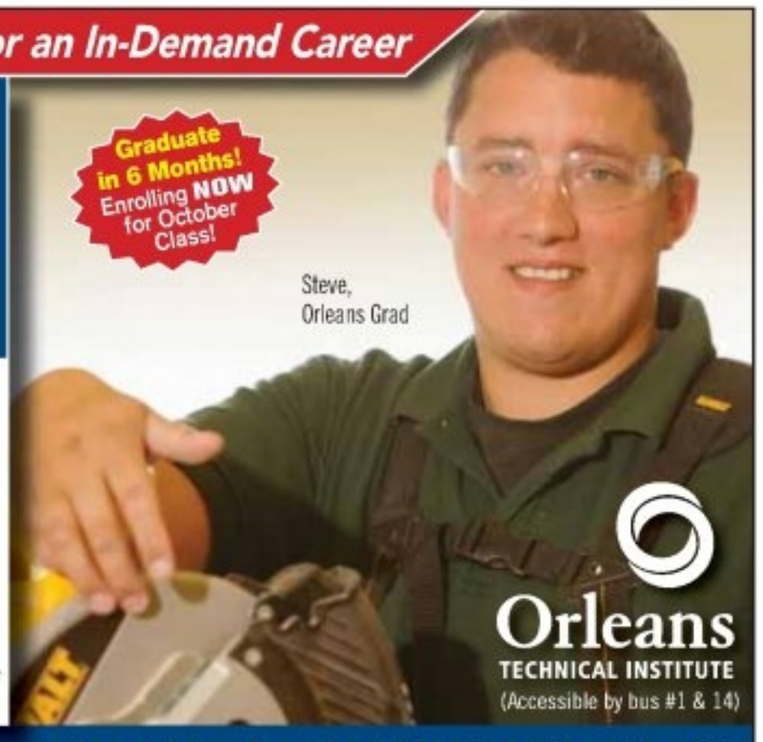

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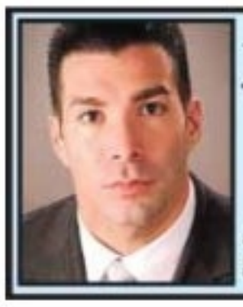

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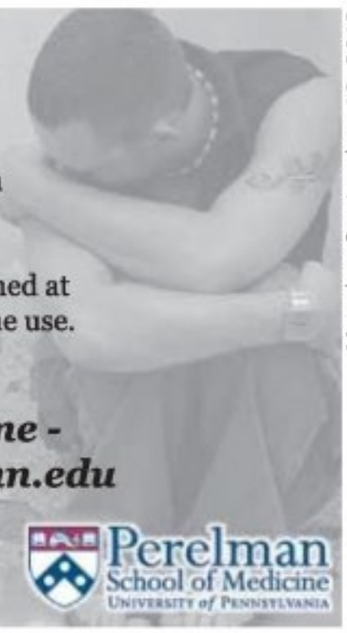

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www.temple.edu/psychology/mad
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